REMARKS

Claims 3-21 have been canceled, and Claims 22-27 have been added. Thus, Claims 1-2 and 22-27 are currently pending in the present application, of which Claims 1-2 have been amended.

The grammatical problems in the Abstract has been corrected, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, the objection to the Abstract is believed to be overcome. In addition, the hyperlink on paragraph 0002 has been deleted. Thus, the objection to the disclosure is believed to be overcome.

Replacement drawings for Figures **1** and **6-8** are attached for the Examiner's approval.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

Claims 8-21 have been canceled. Thus, the § 101 rejection is deemed moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, 6-11, 13-18 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Heptig et al.* (US 5,377,269). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

Amended Claim 1 (and similarly Claim 24) now recites a step of "in response to an operating system attempting to start, determining by an OS start admission circuit whether or not input data for user certification is valid based on said security key information read from said security hardware, and permitting said operating system to start when said determination result is positive" and a step of "restoring said security key information in said security hardware by a security key information restoration circuit based on predetermined data for restoration, wherein

said predetermined data for restoration is generated when generating said security key information within said security hardware in order to render said security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage."

The claimed determining and restoring steps are not taught or suggested by *Heptig*. In addition, the scopes of Claims 1 and 24 track the scope of allowed Claim 1 recited in allowed patent application number 10/735,993. Thus, the § 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-2 and 22-27 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claims 1 and 24 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against Lenovo Deposit Account No. **50-3533**.

Respectfully submitted,

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